

**REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicant amends Claims 1, 4, 6 and 14-17, cancels Claim 3, and adds new Claim 24. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

**Confirmation of Election**

Pursuant to a telephone conversation between the Examiner and Mr. Beaton on March 14, 2003, Applicant hereby confirms the election without traverse to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-19, which are drawn to "a method of constructing a composite structure." Claims 20-23 are withdrawn from the instant application without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Specification Objections**

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant has amended the specification to include proper antecedent basis for Claim 15. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

**Section 112 Rejections**

The Examiner rejects Claims 5-6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 14 as suggested by the Examiner, and respectfully traverses this rejection with respect to Claim 5 because the skin panel may be formed from a cured composite material and then cured again depending on the type of resin utilized for the skin panel. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

**Section 102 Rejections and Section 103 Rejections**

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,675,061 issued to Mead ("Mead"). The Examiner also rejects Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mead, as applied to Claim 1 above, and in further view of one or more of a number of references (Office Action, pages 5-8).

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 15 and submits that these independent claims are now allowable for at least analogous reasons that make Claim 10 allowable (see Office Action, page 9). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent Claims 1 and 15, as amended, as well as their dependent claims; namely, Claims 2, 4-9, 16-19 and 24.

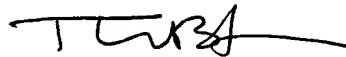
**CONCLUSIONS**

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned Attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant believes no fee is due at this time, however; the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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